

**Listing of the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An acquisition and control system for use with devices installed in an underground well, comprising:
  - an installation designer;
  - a data server including a database of device-specific and installation-specific data;
  - an application builder; and
  - a control and acquisition system;wherein
  - the installation designer comprises a system for defining a hardware and software functional configuration for the devices installed in the well, the functional configuration being provided to the data server and wherein the installation designer defines the hardware and software configuration in the form of software modules based on data obtained from the database and adds, modifies or deletes the modules;
  - the application builder comprises a system for obtaining software components from the data server and configuring such components to correspond to the functional configuration defined by the installation designer, the application builder outputting the configured software components to the control and acquisition system; and
  - the control and acquisition system installs the configured software components in a data communication and processing environment connected to the devices installed in the well so as to control operation of the devices and to acquire data from the devices in accordance with the functional configuration.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the application builder selects software resources from the database to fulfill the functional requirements of each module.
5. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the installation designer and application builder operate at a location remote from the well site.
6. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the output from the application ~~builder~~designer is provided for installation at the well site.
7. (New) A method of utilizing an acquisition and control system for use with devices installed in an underground well, comprising:  
providing an acquisition and control system for a well, wherein the system includes an installation designer; a data server including a database of device-specific and installation-specific data; and an application builder; wherein  
the installation designer comprises a system for defining a hardware and software functional configuration for the devices installed in the well, the functional configuration being provided to the data server, wherein installation designer defines the hardware and software configuration in the form of software modules;  
the application builder comprises a system for obtaining software components from the data server and configuring such components to correspond to the functional configuration defined by the installation designer, the application builder outputting the configured software components to the control and acquisition system; and  
the control and acquisition system installs the configured software components in a data communication and processing environment connected to the devices installed in the well so as to control operation of the devices and to acquire data from the devices in accordance with the functional configuration;

utilizing the acquisition and control system with a well having a first configuration;

changing the acquisition and control system having the first configuration by one of adding, modifying and deleting at least one module; and

utilizing the changed acquisition and control system with a well having a second configuration.